

5617 Norton Road
Alexandria, VA 22303
January 24, 2008

Virginia Air Board
c/o Terry Darton
Air Permit Manager
13901 Crown Court
Woodbridge, VA 22193



JAN 28 2008

Northern Va. Region
Dept. of Env. Quality

Dear Air Board:

The purpose of this letter is to express my concerns regarding the future of the Potomac River Generating Station. I understand that Mirant has done their research regarding the smoke stack and pollution issues and has created an environmentally sound solution for the problems. Their stack merge plan was approved by the Department of Environmental Quality. There should be no opposition from the Virginia Air Board or the Alexandria City Council.

I have lived in the Alexandria area for forty years. During the years beginning in 1966 and extending through 1980, my father, Ralph Harvey, was employed by Potomac Electric Power Company and worked at the Potomac River Generating Station in Alexandria. The facility gave its employees an opportunity to have secure jobs at reasonable salaries and provided them the livelihood needed to raise their families and provide for their financial needs. I know this because my father was able to provide well for his family, finance my college education, and save money for his own retirement through the salary that he earned working at the facility.

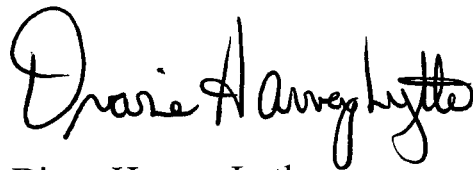
As a coal fired generation plant, the Potomac River Generating Station came under constant criticism even during those years for the large amount of black smoke that came from the smoke stacks. My father and I had discussions on numerous occasions about the fallacies of the criticisms because in fact the black smoke that pours out of the smoke stacks contains very few pollutants – it just looks ugly. Cars and busses actually produce many more pollutants than a coal fired generating plant, but people are ignorant of this fact and just want to criticize the plant because of the ugly black smoke.

Rather than attack the generating station on unfounded and erroneous information, the jobs that the plant provides to its employees and the ability to generate and supply energy need to be protected. Existing resources need to be kept in tact. The idea of tearing down the plant and building more high rise buildings is ill advised. The pollution created by the cars and busses carrying the people to and from the high rises will be greater than any amount of pollution that could ever be produced by the generating station. The Alexandria City Council has a conflict of interest. The members of the Council need to focus on the real facts, not the emotional reactions to black smoke. Tearing down the plant and building high rise buildings will cause more pollutants in the atmosphere than exist now.

I am requesting that you remain neutral and weigh all of the aspects of this issue before you determine a solution. It is my understanding that Mirant has spent millions of dollars to create an environmentally sound solution. Taxpayers' dollars are currently being spent to fight Mirant on an issue that is being misrepresented. The public needs to be educated on the true facts of this case and taxpayer dollars need to be redirected to issues that are real and valid.

Thank you for taking the time to read my position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Diane Harvey Lytle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "D".

Diane Harvey Lytle